

The CyberTipline:

Your Resource for Reporting the Sexual Exploitation of Children

THE INTERNET HAS CREATED AN EXCITING new world of information and communication for anyone with access to online services. While this world offers

unparalleled opportunities for children and adults to learn about the universe we live in, some risks and dangers exist for children as they travel through Cyberspace. This may include access to illegal content on the web or receiving inappropriate and unsolicited E-mail or chat messages. In addition, individuals who prey on children have quickly adapted to the online community of the Information Age and often use computer technology to seek unsupervised access to and contact with children.

To better safeguard children while online, key public- and private-sector leaders joined with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) on March 9, 1998, to launch the CyberTipline®. The CyberTipline was created for individuals to report incidents of child-sexual exploitation including

- Possession, manufacture, and distribution of child pornography
- Online enticement of children for sexual acts
- Child prostitution
- Child sex tourism
- Child sexual molestation (not in the family)
- Unsolicited obscene material sent to a child

SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK, 24 HOURS PER DAY, NCMEC IS FULLY STAFFED TO HANDLE LEADS AND THEN DISTRIBUTE THOSE LEADS TO THE APPROPRIATE LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

HOW DOES THE CYBERTIPLINE WORK?

- When children believe that someone is trying to entice them for sexual or illegal purposes or that they have found child pornography online, they tell their parents.
- The parents and child link to the CyberTipline, www.cybertipline.com, and fill out an online report form for child-sexual exploitation.
- NCMEC Communications Specialists retrieve and prioritize each lead. Then the report is immediately reviewed and analyzed by NCMEC's Exploited Child Unit (ECU). This may include visiting a reported web site or newsgroup posting, contacting the complainant to gather additional information, and conducting searches using various Internet tools. The report is made available online to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly U.S. Customs Service); U.S. Postal Inspection Service; the Department of Justice's Child Exploitation & Obscenity Section; and, when known, forwarded to the state and local law-enforcement agency where the incident occurred.



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CYBERTIPLINE®

www.cybertipline.com

The Public's Resource for Protecting Children Online



YOU CAN HELP

The Internet is being used in a number of ways to target and sexually victimize children. The best way to reduce these risks on the Internet is to understand the potential dangers, watch for abuses, and immediately report them. Using the CyberTipline (www.cybertipline.com) will help tremendously in the fight against child-sexual exploitation on the Internet.

SUCCESS STORIES

The CyberTipline has received tens of thousands of leads from parents, teachers, clergy, law enforcement, and many other concerned people who want to better safeguard children while they are exploring the Internet. Many of those leads have taken children out of harm's way.

- The CyberTipline received a report that a 53-year-old convicted murderer had been communicating online with a 14-year-old female in Wisconsin trying to arrange a meeting offline for sexual activity. Information was given to law enforcement and the suspect was arrested.
- Twenty-five individuals from the public reported a web site advertising an online contest to find a girlfriend for an 11-year-old boy. It was not quite as innocent as it seemed. Law enforcement arrested the child's parents for solicitation and rape.
- The CyberTipline received a report from a mother in Helena, Montana, whose 16-year-old daughter ran away from home. The mother suspected that her daughter had taken a bus to Kansas City, Missouri, to visit with an adult she "met" via the Internet. NCMEC's ECU contacted the FBI, which in turn contacted its Kansas City field office. The child arrived in Kansas City and was greeted by federal agents. The suspect—a divorced male in his thirties—was also apprehended.
- The CyberTipline received a report regarding a web site that contained hundreds of images of child pornography. NCMEC's ECU contacted the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and they worked with local law enforcement who made an arrest in the case.

WHO WE ARE

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was established in 1984 as a private, nonprofit organization and serves as a clearinghouse of information on missing and exploited children per federal statutes 42 USC § 5771 and 42 USC § 5780. The 24-hour, toll-free Hotline and CyberTipline are open for those who have information on missing and exploited children at 1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678) and www.cybertipline.com.

In 1996 the U.S. Congress established the Exploited Child Unit within NCMEC. ECU is not an investigative agency, but rather a resource center and clearinghouse for parents, law enforcement, public and private agencies, legislators, and other professionals offering services including

- Queries and database searches for law enforcement on cases of child-sexual exploitation
- Publications, training, and technical assistance for law enforcement on cases of child-sexual exploitation

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SERVICES AND RESOURCES OFFERED BY NCMEC'S EXPLOITED CHILD UNIT, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CYBERTIPLINE.COM OR CALL 1-800-843-5678.

ALSO, PLEASE VISIT THE NETSMARTZ WORKSHOP® AT WWW.NETSMARTZ.ORG FOR INFORMATION REGARDING INTERNET SAFETY.



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- Unsolicited obscene material sent to a child

in partnership with



OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
U.S. Department of Justice

Report these crimes online at
www.cybertipline.com or by
calling 1-800-843-5678.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
on child-safety issues, please
visit NCMEC's web site at
www.missingkids.com or the
NetSmartz Workshop at
www.netsmartz.org.